

S/N 09/855,200

Client Ref. No.: 659-787

Examiner's statement that claims 1, 9, 11, 24-25 and 31 are generic. Applicants further submit that claims 2, 5, 14, 17, 21 and 27 also are generic. In addition, Applicants submit that at least claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9-11, 14, 16, 17, 20-22, 24-27, 30-32, 34, 35, 40, 41, 44 and 45 are readable on the elected species. Accordingly, no claims have been cancelled.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite claims 33 and 43 as follows:

B1 sub c1 33. (Amended) The invention of claim 1 wherein said absorbent composite comprises an end region overlapping said body panel, and wherein said side margin extends along only a portion of said end region of said absorbent composite overlapping said body panel.

B2 sub c1 43. (Amended) The invention of claim 24 wherein said absorbent composite comprises an end region overlapping said body panel, and wherein said side margins extend along only a portion of said end region of said absorbent composite overlapping said body panel.

Claims 33 and 43 have been amended to provide antecedent basis for "said absorbent composite" and to improve the clarity and form thereof without narrowing

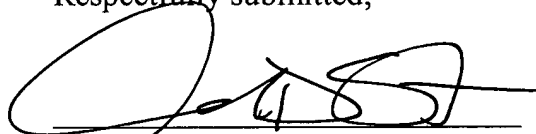
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the scope of the respective claims. A marked-up version of the amended claims is provide in Appendix A.

Any questions concerning this election or amendment should be directed to the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4713.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Stover', written over a horizontal line.

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APPENDIX A

Claims 33 and 43 have been amended as follows:

33. (Amended) The invention of claim 1 wherein said absorbent [garment] composite comprises an end region overlapping said body panel, and wherein said side margin extends along only a portion of said end region of said absorbent composite overlapping said body panel.

43. (Amended) The invention of claim 24 wherein said absorbent [garment] composite comprises an end region overlapping said body panel, and wherein said side margins extend along only a portion of said end region of said absorbent composite overlapping said body panel.